

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**  
**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & SKILLS COMMITTEE**

**4.00pm 1 JUNE 2015**

**FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, SHIP STREET**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillor Bewick (Chair)

**Also in attendance:** Councillor Chapman (Deputy Chair), Barradell, Brown (Opposition Spokesperson), Daniel, Knight, Marsh, Phillips (Group Spokesperson), Taylor and Wealls

**Other Members present:** Councillors

**PART ONE**

**1 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

**1(a) Declarations of substitutes**

1.1 There were none.

**1(b) Declarations of interest**

1.2 Councillor Phillips declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 9 as a Governor for Somerhill Junior School.

1.3 Councillor Knight declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 9 as she had a child currently attending Somerhill Junior School.

1.4 Councillor Wealls declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 8 as a Governor for St Andrews CE Primary School.

1.5 Ann Holt declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 10 as a Governor for Downs View School.

1.6 Councillor Bewick declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 9 as he had a child currently attending Somerhill Junior School.

**1(c) Exclusion of press and public**

1.7 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ("the Act"), the Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during an item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the

business to be transacted or the nature of proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present during that item, there would be disclosure to them of confidential information (as defined in section 100A(3) of the Act) or exempt information (as defined in section 100(I) of the Act).

1.8 **RESOLVED-** That the press and public not be excluded

## 2 MINUTES

2.1 **RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 March 2015 be approved and signed as the correct record.

## 3 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 The Chair provided the following communication:

“Can I begin by welcoming everyone to today’s first meeting of the Children, Young People and Skills Committee – the first of the committee meeting cycle since the recent elections.

Whether you are a new councilor or a returning councilor, I’d like to congratulate you on being elected here. Can I also note my thanks to the previous administration’s committee chair, Sue Shanks, and to those Councillors who served the interests of children and young people in the previous administration. Regardless of party affiliations, we all gather here to serve our community the best way we can.

The new composition of the committee of course reflects the democratic wishes of the residents of Brighton & Hove. On May 7<sup>th</sup> they voted locally for both a change of leadership and change of direction at the Council. They have signaled to us all, I think, that they want to see an administration that works better for them. In practice, that means getting on and working together to improve the educational outcomes and life chances of every child and young person in the city.

The committee, you’ll see, has added the consonant ‘S’ at the end of its title. We will discuss the change more formally in a moment. But I would like to add that the S for Skills is a very deliberate addition to the committee’s remit by the new administration. I think we’d all agree that excellent education and skills are the engines of social mobility and prosperity in our communities. Working closely with the economic development board chaired by the new Leader of the Council, and with the health and wellbeing board, chaired by Cllr Yates, we have an opportunity to really join-up the needs of children and young people in a more holistic way. For example, improving school to work transitions in the city is as much an economic issue as it is an educational one. And tackling growing childhood obesity is about promoting healthier choices both within and beyond our schools.

With the next election some way off, I hope you will feel like me, that it is incumbent upon us all to find common ground where we can; particularly in setting stretching and ambitious goals for education and children’s services for the city. I say to you, let’s all work together to set some really ambitious goals for better children’s and youth services in the city; and then play your part in holding our feet to the fire to achieve them.

At the moment, our ambitions for education, children’s services and skills are falling well short of where they should be. Of course, it’s important to recognise and celebrate some really outstanding and good schools; and we have some really fantastic teaching and children’s services that are being provided in our local authority area. I am the father of

three young children living in Hove, which means I am an active and informed user of the many good services that the council provides.

But we also know that for such a creative and dynamic city we could be doing so much better:

Compared to other local authorities, we have a real attainment gap, for both average and particularly disadvantaged pupils

There are too many children growing up in poverty – in some wards it's as high as 40 per cent.

There is growing pressure on school places at all levels – and the city desperately needs to get on and build a new secondary school

We are currently below the national average in terms of Level 3 attainment, including poor vocational skills provision, despite the fact we are home to two excellent universities

Youth unemployment is low compared to the national average – yet we are almost alone in England – by failing to increase the number of apprenticeship starts since 2011; which suggests to me a breakdown in how we effectively work with local employers.

As your chair, I will bring to this role an unshakeable commitment never to accept second best for our children and young people of the city. I bring with me professional experience of 20 years working in education and training; and more recently working in other countries seeing how they manage similar challenges – often in very imaginative and entrepreneurial ways. I will be sharing some of these insights with the Director of Children's Services and his team.

Can I take this opportunity to formally introduce Councillor Chapman, who will act as the committee's deputy chair; as well as support me and the Director of Children's Services in driving through the required change.

With the right leadership team some really extraordinary things can be achieved. But it will take some boldness and a willingness to put aside party political differences at times. Yes, we have to recognise that this is financially an unprecedented time for local government, particularly given central government cuts. There is some welcome protection to the schools part of the budget in cash terms, but governors and head teachers we know may still struggle to balance the books. Despite all this, my appeal to you would be this: let's keep our focus on what more can be achieved to improve education and children's services in our city, even in these challenging times.

Finally, you should know that I do not bring any pre-conceived ideology or dogma about education and policy to this role. My business life has taught me to be biased to action, not processes. Educational standards are far more important to me than structures. My focus, working with all of you – is that I will strive hard to work in as consensual a manner as possible – I will always try to bring us back to the central challenge that both we and the city will face:

- How do we unite and work together to achieve the best education, skills and children's services outcomes for our great city?
- How do we become one of the best local authorities in the UK, rated as at least Good or Outstanding by OfSted within the next 4 years?
- How do we set a course that achieves world-class status for our city when it comes to education, young people and skills?

This is after all, I hope you'll agree, what we have been put here by the residents of Brighton & Hove to work towards".

"Congratulations to two Brighton & Hove schools who are the winners of the Reading Recovery Awards 2015 which celebrate and honour practitioners who have made an outstanding contribution to children's literacy through Reading Recovery and are awarded by UCL Institute of Education. Reading Recovery School of the Year Award went to Pippa Davis at St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School, for work supporting parental involvement. Inspirational Manager of the Year Award went to Jenny Aldridge, Rudyard Kipling Primary School, for work with community engagement and high aspiration for literacy learning for all.

I know what a difference this work and the Every Child a Reader programme is making to the outcomes for young people and I also want to thank all those who make this a reality in the city"

"Brighton & Hove has been short listed as one of the finalists for the Public Health Partnerships category and for Legal Services. Local Authority representatives will attend the awards ceremony on the evening of Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June, at the Hilton, Park Lane, London".

#### **4 CALL OVER**

- 4.1. All items on the agenda were reserved for discussion.

#### **5 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

- 5.1 There were none.

#### **6 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT**

- 6.1 There were none.

#### **7 CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

- 7.1 The Committee considered a report of the Monitoring Officer that provided information on the committee's terms of reference and related matters including the appointment of its urgency sub-committee.
- 7.2 Councillor Brown noted that the next committee was scheduled for October which was some time away and it may be beneficial to have a meeting before that.
- 7.3 The Chair was in agreement and stated that he would investigate holding a meeting in late July.
- 7.4 Councillor Brown noted an error in appendix 1 that stated the committee was responsible for services to young people up to the age of 19 which should instead be 25. It was agreed by Committee to correct this section in appendix 1.

#### **7.5 RESOLVED-**

- 1) That the committee's terms of reference, as set out in Appendix A to this report, be noted; and
- 2) That the establishment of an Urgency Sub-Committee consisting of the Chair of the Committee and two other Members (nominated in accordance with the scheme for the allocation of seats for committees), to exercise its powers in relation to matters of urgency, on which it is necessary to make a decision before the next ordinary meeting of the Committee be approved.

## **8 SCHOOL OFSTED PRESENTATION**

- 8.1 The Head of Standards & Achievement Education & Inclusion provided an update of schools that had undergone an Ofsted inspection since the previous meeting of the Children & Young People Committee. The Head of Standards & Achievement Education & Inclusion stated that she was pleased to report that Patcham had improved from 'adequate' to 'good'. The Head of Standards & Achievement Education & Inclusion added that HM Inspectors had made monitoring visits to three schools (Coombe Road, St Bartholomew's CE Primary School and Brighton Aldridge Community Academy) and had found senior leaders and governors at all three were taking effective action to raise standards.
- 8.2 Councillor Marsh if national and regional comparative data was available.
- 8.3 The Head of Standards & Achievement Education & Inclusion replied that this information was available and she understood that Brighton & Hove ranked third in the South East region. The Head of Standards & Achievement Education & Inclusion added that she would circulate the data to committee members subsequent to the meeting.
- 8.4 The Chair asked if a regular update could be provided to the Committee as an agenda item.
- 8.5 Councillor Phillips supported the suggestion made by the Chair as it would provide a basis for the Committee to offer help where it was needed particularly to those schools outside the local authority remit.
- 8.6 The Executive Director of Children's Services commented that the Committee were scheduled to receive two annual attainment reports with the first in October and regional data would form part of that. There would also be a follow-up report to a later Committee focussing on specific groups of children.
- 8.7 The Chair stated that whilst he acknowledged the cycle report cycle, Members had given a clear steer that they wished to receive regular updates containing key indicators in order to challenge and influence.
- 8.8 **RESOLVED-** That the report be noted.

## **9 STATUTORY NOTICE FOLLOWING CONSULTATION TO AMALGAMATE DAVIGDOR INFANT AND SOMERHILL JUNIOR SCHOOLS**

- 9.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Children's Services that informed the Committee of the responses to the statutory notice of the proposal to merge Davigdor Infant and Somerhill Junior Schools and requested approval to amalgamate the two schools to become a four form entry, all through primary school.
- 9.2 Councillor Wealls noted that under the schools funding formula the amalgamated school would receive one lump sum payment of £150,000 instead of £150,000 each as separate infant and junior schools and asked if the school would find that manageable.
- 9.3 The Head of Education Planning & Contracts stated that for the current 2015/16 financial year the two budgets would be merged so the school would continue to benefit from the full £300,000 combined lump sum payments. In the following financial year 2016/17 the single school would receive 85% of the combined lump sum payments (£255,000), after which the school would receive a single lump sum payment of £150,000. The Head of Education Planning & Contracts added that amalgamation had not presented problems for other schools that had done so as there were savings in the number of headteachers and other economies of scale. The local authority would continue to work closely with the school during the transitional period.
- 9.4 Councillor Barradell asked if any provision would be put into place for parents unable to afford new uniform.
- 9.5 The Head of Education Planning & Contracts stated that the school were aware of this issue and its sensitivities and were looking at ways to minimise cost to parents. The Assistant Director - Education & Inclusion added that often rules on uniform were relaxed and any changes were enforced gradually by the school. The Assistant Director - Education & Inclusion added that she would make the Headteacher and Governors aware of the Committee's comments.
- 9.6 **RESOLVED**-That the Children, Young People & Skills Committee approves the proposal contained in the statutory notice to amalgamate Davigdor Infant and Somerhill Junior Schools to become a four form entry, all through primary school, through the closure of Davigdor Infant School and expanding the age range of Somerhill Junior School from 7 – 11 to 4 – 11 from 1 September 2015.

## **10 ADDITION TO EDUCATION CAPITAL RESOURCES AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2015/2016**

- 10.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Children's Services requesting approval for the allocation of £1.903 million for 2015/16 within the Structural Maintenance programme and £686,412 allocated for Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM). The grant allocation of £1.903 million had been left unallocated until now due to a larger than expected settlement.
- 10.2 Councillor Barradell stated that she had found the report unclear as to whether the funding was unallocated or additional as descriptions alternated throughout the report.
- 10.3 The Head of Education Planning & Contracts clarified that the funding was an unallocated amount. This had arisen because the level of Capital Maintenance Grant (CMG) notified by the Department for Education shortly before the meeting in March had

been significantly higher than expected and the Committee had therefore deferred a decision on the use of £1.9m of this grant pending further work by officers. The purpose of this report was to seek approval to assign the unallocated amount as an addition to the Capital Investment Programme. On the matter of UIFSM, the Head of Education Planning & Contracts stated that it was recommended that the money should be used to invest in larger kitchen equipment in order to improve the capacity to provide the greater number of meals arising from the UIFSM policy.

- 10.4 Councillor Barradell asked where the £900,000 revenue funding was allocated from.
- 10.5 The Head of Education Planning & Contracts answered that this was assigned from Brighton & Hove City Council revenue funding. (Post meeting note: As this revenue funding is from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) under the 'historic commitments' exception it is not available for other purposes. Any reduction in the contribution would have to be allocated to schools' budgets through the funding formula).
- 10.6 Councillor Brown asked for clarification that indicative allocations had been provided for the next three financial years.
- 10.7 The Head of Education Planning & Contracts confirmed that this was the case.
- 10.8 Councillor Daniel asked if the £900,000 revenue funding could be used for another purpose.
- 10.9 The Executive Director of Children's Service clarified that it was his understanding that this was an historical budget agreement.
- 10.10 Councillor Wealls enquired as to the determination of D2 priority works.
- 10.11 The Head of Education Planning & Contracts stated that this was on the basis of ranking criteria that he would circulate to committee members.
- 10.12 Councillor Marsh asked how works were initially identified and furthermore, clarification on why Woodingdean Community Centre was included in the D1 priority works.
- 10.13 The Assistant Director - Education & Inclusion stated that the works were prioritised on the basis of a survey and assessment against the set criteria alongside dialogue with the schools. The Head of Education Planning & Contracts added that Woodingdean Community Centre was listed in the D1 priority works as it was within the Children's Services property portfolio.
- 10.14 Councillor Daniel asked for clarification on the air raid shelters listed as on school premises.
- 10.15 The Head of Education Planning & Contracts clarified that there were some air raid shelters on Brighton & Hove school sites and work was sometimes required to keep these structures safe.
- 10.16 Councillor Barradell asked for confirmation that the £900,000 revenue funding could be used for an alternate purpose.

10.17 The Head of Education Planning & Contracts stated that the £900,000 revenue funding was part of the overall funding used for urgent, priority projects that had to be undertaken on health and safety grounds for example.

10.18 **RESOLVED-**

- 1) That the level of available capital resources totalling £18.383 million for investment relating to education buildings financed from capital grant, revenue contributions and reserves set aside for primary places be noted.
- 2) That Committee agree the allocation of the additional £1.903 million as shown in Appendices 2 and 3 and recommend this to Policy & Resources Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015 for inclusion within the council's Capital Investment Programme 2015/16.
- 3) That Committee agree to the allocation of the £686,410 in respect of Universal Infant Free School Meals funding as shown in Appendix 4 and recommend this to Policy & Resources Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015 for inclusion within the council's Capital Investment Programme 2015/16.
- 4) That Committee agree to recommend to Policy & Resources Committee that they grant delegated authority to the Assistant Director of Property & Design to procure the capital maintenance and basic need works and enter into contracts within these budgets, as required, in accordance with Contract Standing Orders in respect of the entire Education Capital Programme.

**11 SAFE & SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL TO SCHOOLS**

- 11.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Children's Services that informed Members of the work with schools to reduce the use of cars to take children to and from school and advised Members of the policy for managing school travel adopted by the Council as part of the Safer Roads Strategy 2015-2020. Furthermore, the report informed Members of the procedural approach being followed by the Road Safety Team to support schools with their efforts to reduce reliance upon private car use for the journey to and from school and the development and maintenance of School Travel Plans.
- 11.2 Councillor Brown asked for confirmation that there were eleven School Travel Plans as she remembered this figure being higher in previous years.
- 11.3 The Road Safety Manager confirmed that there were currently eleven plans. This figure had reduced as the government funding available to produce the Plans had ceased and gradually schools had stopped producing them. The work of the Road Safety Team was to help refresh the Plans with a revised approach.
- 11.4 Councillor Wealls asked if there was any monitoring process to ensure that the Plans were working effectively.



- 11.5 The Road Safety Manager replied that the best method of analysis was an examination in the shift of modal share and the Road Safety Team requested that schools report to them on how pupils were travelling to school.
- 11.6 Councillor Phillips noted that enforcement spot checks had been a success and asked if more were planned and if more yellow lines would be an additional deterrent for anti-social parking. Furthermore, Councillor Phillips asked if there was an intention to allow for monitoring by volunteers.
- 11.7 The Road Safety Manager stated that the council had run a series of announced spot checks and enforcement that had been very successful and made a difference with established behaviours. The Road Manager added that the preferred approach was to inform motorists of correct parking and driving behaviours rather than ticketing and that School Travel Plans would likely achieve more success in the long-term than increased enforcement. The Road Safety Manager added that he was not aware of volunteer monitoring and whilst it was not currently being considered, such an approach may be considered if it was deemed beneficial to a particular situation.
- 11.8 The Chair stated that whilst he agreed that creating a change in behaviours was the long-term solution, he also believed that the community could help on issues of road safety.
- 11.9 Martin Jones asked if ad-hoc, temporary signage may be a solution.
- 11.10 The Road Safety Manager stated that some authorities had adopted time-limited speed zones but this was hard to enforce and there were also legal restrictions on what the local authority could display. The Road Safety Team gave constant consideration to potential infrastructure changes to the physical environment to change driver perception.
- 11.11 Councillor Barradell stated that bus services were a particular problem in the East Brighton area where lots of pupils were travelling to school using an inconsistent service. Councillor Barradell asked if this could be given consideration in the 'Next Steps' section.
- 11.12 The Road Safety Manager replied that given the limited resources currently available, the Road Safety Team were currently focussing their work at primary school level but secondary school travel would be considered later in the programme and that would be the type of issue to be challenged.
- 11.13 Councillor Daniel stated that she agreed that bus travel in East Brighton was a significant issue and she was aware that some parents would not choose Brighton Aldridge Community Academy as a school preference due to the limited transport options available.
- 11.14 The Assistant Director - Education & Inclusion clarified that the current review of the school admissions arrangements would be looking at a number of issues including bus services and there were ongoing discussions as part of the Supported Bus Network work.
- 11.15 **RESOVLED-**

- 1) That Members note the Council's school travel management activities, the adopted policy and the School Travel Planning procedures being followed.
- 2) That Members endorse the proposals described under 'Next Steps' and summarised below:
  - To establish robust data sources that enable the School Travel Advisors to guide schools on the ways that they can support and maintain lower car use for the trip to/from school – especially the sharing of post code data between service teams as a priority;
  - To target parking/anti-social driving enforcement based on a proven need approach, where enforcement complements other measures in the School Travel Plan;
  - Continued collaborative working between Road Safety and Public Health officers to achieve healthy, active lifestyles and meet performance targets for public health;
  - The promotion of School Travel Plan development by Children & Young People's Services to all city schools.

## 12 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

12.1 No items were referred to Full Council for information.

The meeting concluded at 5.50pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of